

The ICAC's 80th Plenary Meeting



Working Paper 2

Establishment of International Textiles Research Council (ITRC)

**DRIVING SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH
INNOVATION AND LEADERSHIP**

29 November – 1st December 2022



Dear Member,

The ICAC has always been responsible for representing the entire cotton supply chain including textiles, buying houses, retailers and brands but it hasn't always done as well at that mission as it could have. There has always been a need for the ICAC to offer exceptional value to consuming countries, enabling Member governments to take full advantage of benefits of textile value chain to create employment and facilitate industrialisation in their countries. Realising the potential that textiles brings, the ICAC has committed itself to prioritising textiles as much as it does production.

As a part of the strategy for the development of a global textiles value chain, the ICAC has been developing a number of initiatives to benefit Members:

1. **Country Profiling:** The objective is to showcase each country by providing the necessary information related to textiles, such as general economic indicators; policies governing textiles, commerce, investment, import tariffs; social and environmental legislations; unilateral concessions; drawbacks, temporary importation schemes etc.
2. **B2B Portal:** The objective is to provide a credible source for new buyers and suppliers; to generate more business; and to connect companies across the value chain including core textiles, buying houses, allied textiles industries and the services sector.
3. **Textiles** – There will be parallel 'Plenary Plus' track during the annual Plenary Meeting to focus on exhibitions, fashion shows and textile-oriented awards.
4. **International Textiles Research Council (ITRC):** The ITRC has a long set of objectives: to connect universities with the research departments at textiles machinery manufacturers; dye and chemical makers; engineers working at textiles factories; and fashion designers. The ITRC will provide a forum for researchers, engineers, technologists and students working in textiles and allied industries in order to share knowledge on new technologies; provide solutions to challenges in existing textile processes; collaborate on research by holding conferences; issuing publications; creating forums; providing leadership for sustainability; creating new standards; and dissemination of information.

Recommendation:

With this paper, a draft document for the establishment of the International Textiles Research Council is attached for the review of Members. The ICAC requests that Members provide their feedback and if found to be in order, that approval be granted during the Steering Committee meeting at the 80th Plenary Meeting to be held virtually from 29 November to 1 December 2022.

Kai Hughes
Executive Director

Kanwar Usman
Head of Textiles



International Textiles Research Council (ITRC)

There is a need to provide a forum for researchers, engineers, technologists, fashion designers and students working in textiles and allied industries in order to:

- Share knowledge on new technologies,
- Provide solutions to issues in textiles processes,
- Collaborate on research through holding conferences,
- Issue publications,
- Create forums,
- Provide leadership for sustainability, and
- Create new standards and dissemination of information

To fill that need, the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) will create the International Textiles Research Council (ITRC).

Articles of International Textiles Research Council

Introduction

International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC)

Formed in 1939, it is the only intergovernmental body for cotton producing, consuming and trading countries recognised by the United Nations (UN).

The ICAC was formed by the governments to deal exclusively with technical, statistical and policy matters related to cotton. It acts as a catalyst for change by helping member countries maintain a healthy world cotton economy; provides transparency to the world cotton market by serving as a clearinghouse for technical information on cotton production; and serves as a forum for discussing cotton issues of international significance. The ICAC has currently 25 Member governments, including the European Union.

ICAC has provided significant services to the cotton value chain; it is the premier source of data on the global cotton industry. The organisation has several networks used to disseminate cotton research and statistics, and is involved in a number of innovative projects around the world.

ICAC and the Textiles Value Chain

ICAC has always been responsible for representing the entire cotton supply chain — including textiles, buying houses, retailers and brands — but it hasn't always done as well at that mission as it could have, focusing almost exclusively on cotton production. There has always been a



need for the ICAC to offer exceptional value to consuming countries, and to encourage and enable cotton producing countries to engage in textile manufacturing to take full advantage of benefits it provides, especially for employment and industrialisation.

Therefore, the ICAC — which has always provided leadership for cotton and now will do the same for global textiles value chain — will serve as a think-tank to deliberate on issues and propose solutions to Member governments.

It is also important to provide leadership in research and development — including manmade fibres and filaments manufacturing, machinery manufacturing, chemical manufacturing and accessories — to empower engineers, technologists and fashion designers.

The textiles value chain is facing a number of challenges. Some affect a specific country or region, but there are several that are global issues, including sustainability. Textiles manufacturing has been subject to criticism in the past, but textile stakeholders have been doing what they can with limited resources. However, multiple organisations — most of them for-profit — have developed a host of certifications and audits, which are both resource- and time-consuming. It is important that the ICAC protect the textiles value chain from audit fatigue and audit duplication. Further, multiple stakeholders have large energy and water requirements, which is an issue when it comes to sustainability. Affordable solutions are also required for SMEs; otherwise the textiles industry will be limited to a few countries and a handful of large companies.

ICAC, through the ITRC, will provide the needed leadership for all organisations in the textiles value chain and allied industries.

Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC)

The recently constituted PSAC is the successor to the Private Sector Advisory Panel (PSAP), which was comprised of individuals from the private sector of Member governments. The PSAC, on the other hand, consists of national, regional and global organisations that will facilitate interaction between the private sectors of Members and also the governments.

PSAC is the only organisation in the world that has representation from every sector of the cotton and textiles value chain and is represented by four Permanent Committees: Producers and ginnerers; merchants and allied industries; spinners and textile manufacturers; and retailers/brands.



Three representatives from each of the four Permanent Committees of the PSAC serve on the Executive Committee, which will interact directly with Member governments through the ICAC Standing Committee and will engage with during ICAC Plenary Meetings.

Preamble

The ITRC was created after:

- **Considering** the unique role of textiles industry to cater the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;
- **Realising** research is carried out in silos, and that there are weak academia-industry linkages especially between research and its application, as well as a lack of leadership and a collective forum for research and development;
- **Perceiving** textile sector's potential to spur industrialisation;
- **Recognising** the opportunity to increase trade for Member governments;
- **Acknowledging** textiles as engine of growth especially for value addition and creating massive employment for women;
- **Taking note** of new challenges and opportunities provided by the environmental and social matters related to textiles and allied industries;
- **Creating** awareness and providing solutions for sustainable textile production while improving the traceability and labelling;
- **Providing** new solutions for the compliance, sustainability and technical matters;
- **Recommending** solutions for energy consumption and effluent water treatment; and
- **Deciding** to provide a worldwide forum to textiles value chain, from creation of the fibre to end of the life of the finished product.

Rules of Business / Articles Governing the International Textiles Research Council

Mission Statement

To integrate and augment the research carried out in textiles and provide leadership in areas of innovation and technical solutions for sustainable textile production.

Objectives

1. Creating a joint platform among the academia and textiles value chain
2. Facilitating the research carried out by various textile research universities, institutes, organisations and companies



3. Providing a global forum to integrate and showcase the work carried out by universities; research organisations; institutes; compliance organisations and allied industries including machinery manufacturers; dye and chemical manufacturers; and fibres (natural, artificial and synthetic)
4. Facilitating networking between academia and industry
5. Coordination between universities, research organisations, and the research departments in allied industry organisations
6. Holding regional meetings and/or exhibitions and/or fashion shows
7. Providing opportunities to showcase new products at exhibitions and digitally on the ICAC website including the creation of special sections for designers
8. Disseminating information through the website and publications
9. Catering to the needs of all stakeholders in the textiles value chain
10. Facilitating virtual and in-person training by universities and research organisations
11. Providing access to vocational training institutes
12. Developing criteria for various awards for innovation and improvements in quality, productivity and sustainability
13. Creating a dedicated Sustainability Mission for Textiles
14. Carrying out a Life Cycle Assessment of the textiles value chain to assess various fibres, technologies, processes, and water/energy consumption
15. Suggesting ways to improve the sustainability of textiles value chain
16. Creating a platform to share new ideas and establish venture funds
17. Providing networking for collaboration on
 - a. Curriculum development
 - b. Short courses
 - c. University activities
 - d. Research papers
 - e. Testing and quality control
 - f. Quality assurance
18. Developing new compliance standards and restructuring compliance methodologies
19. Standardising compliance requirements to avoid audit fatigue
20. Developing a sustainability index and to linking it to traceability
21. Comparing various energy and water-treatment solutions
22. Encouraging the exchange of researchers between Member governments
23. Creating Student Exchange Programmes



24. Providing a forum for universities, research organisations, institutes, allied industries research departments and PSAC Member Associations to develop and complete projects

Structure

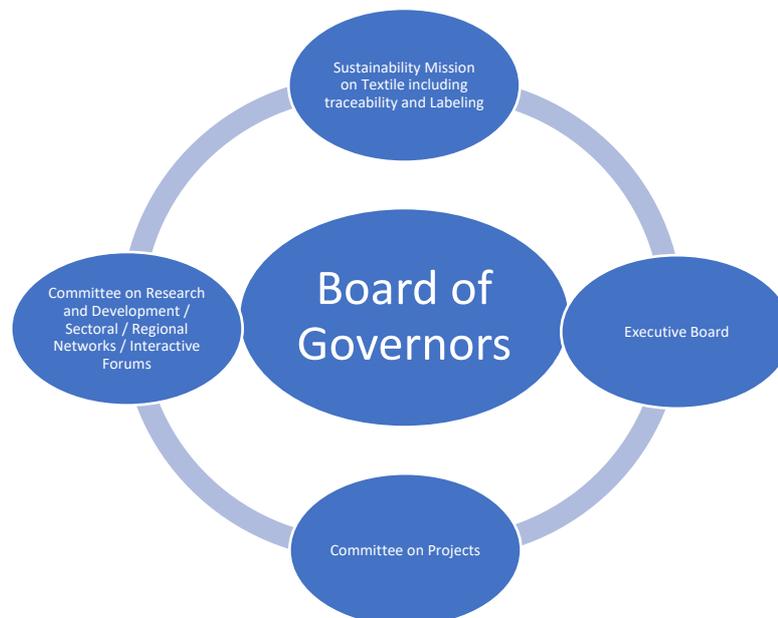
The structure of the ITRC would be three layered: universities/institutes; research organisations and the research departments at private sector businesses; and textile professionals such as engineers, technologists and fashion designers.

The ITRC's main objective is to share knowledge and research, therefore, the Upper House of the Council would be comprised of only the researchers from any of the areas of textiles including fibres; machinery; chemicals; yarn; knit/woven fabrics; processed fabrics garments; production processes; and technical textiles in universities, departments, research organisations and institutes.

Membership will be open to individuals working in any of the fields mentioned above.

The Structure of the International Textile Research Council (ITRC) would be as follows:

Structure of International Textile Research Council ITRC





Governance Structure

The highest decision-making platform will be the Board of Governors (BoG). The BoG can form committees and will be assisted in its operations by a number of sub-committees as deemed appropriate. BoG along with the committees would constitute the ITRC. BoG would be responsible for the overall implementation of its objectives.

The ICAC Executive Director will be the President of the BoG and any person from textiles value chain can be the Chairperson, who will be responsible for ITRC operations.

Composition of Board of Governors

The BoG will be comprised of a Vice Chancellor, a Rector and a person nominated by the Vice Chancellor who works in the Textile Department at a university (Assistant Professor, Associate Professor or a Dean). Further, Head of Research Departments of Research Organisation, Textile Institute. Moreover, Head of the Research Department of Fiber, Filament Manufacturer, Machinery Manufacturer, Dyes and Chemical Manufacturer, Accessories, Energy, Water Effluentment etc. Every university joining the ITRC would have one seat on the BoG.

Executive Board

An Executive Board — comprising the ITRC Chairperson and Chairs of the various Committees of ITRC and the PSAC — would be the principal administrative body for discharging the objectives of the Council. Matters pertaining to research, formulation of proposals, coordination, communication, administration of projects, and budgeting would be taken up by the Executive Board and sent for approval of the BoG.

Office

The registered office address of the International Textiles Research Council will be 1629 K Street NW, Suite 702, Washington, District of Columbia, 20006-1635, USA.

Secretariat

Support will initially be provided by the ICAC and the Universities having the Chair of the BoG and the Committees. Efforts will be made to establish a permanent sub-secretariat for the ITRC.

Rules of the Business of the BoG/Statement

The mandate of the ITRC would be to provide a global platform to share knowledge across the entire textiles value chain including allied industries.



The textiles value chain has also been facing the issues pertaining to sustainability, so the ITRC would also establish a 'Sustainability Mission on Textiles' to provide guidelines and definitions, as well as identify problems and solutions. The ITRC would also facilitate a holistic review of all compliance regimes and would make an effort to reach to a common sustainability standard including the targets for the future.

The Board of Governors would also establish a system to involve the professionals working in the entire value chain to share their ideas, views and recommendations on topics as decided by the BoG.

Notwithstanding the Rules of Business, the functions of the BoG may include but are not limited to:

- i. Coordinate inter-university research
- ii. Provide a platform to members to share their research work
- iii. Establish industry-academia linkage
- iv. Publish research
- v. Arrange trainings
- vi. Hold conferences and meetings
- vii. Provide leadership to various functional committees
- viii. Provide solutions to the issues faced by the textiles value chain
- ix. Form committees and task forces to discharge the objectives of the ITRC
- x. Discuss issues to provide solutions for energy consumption, chemicals and effluent water
- xi. Develop proposals to carry out projects in Member countries
- xii. Establish Regional and/or Sectoral Networks to hold meetings
- xiii. Support the ICAC in holding its Annual Plenary Meeting
- xiv. Create courses for different audiences of textiles value chain and hold them regularly in Member countries
- xv. Facilitate exchange programmes for researchers and students
- xvi. Report on the activities of the ITRC during Plenary Meetings

Membership of ITRC

The membership of the ITRC would be open to textile universities, textile departments, and textile research organisations. Membership would also be available to people working in the textiles value chain, subject to certain conditions.



Membership of BoG

Any textile university, textile department of any university, research organisation or research institute can be member of the BoG. The ICAC can extend invitations or the universities may apply. There will be no restriction on the number of universities or research organisations from an ICAC Member country.

The universities from non-Member countries may apply and can be given observer status subject to approval of the Executive Board or BoG. Universities at non-Member countries may be admitted, subject to a fee as determined by the BoG.

Corporate members and compliance organisations may have observer status in the BoG.

Membership of Committees

Universities and corporate members may become members of the Committees.

The universities from non-Member countries may apply and can be given observer status subject to approval of the Executive Board/BoG. Universities in non-Member countries may be granted Membership subject to a fee as determined by the BoG.

Compliance organisations would be encouraged to be part of the Committees.

Corporate Membership

The research departments of companies in the textiles value chain, including allied industries, may apply for the corporate membership.

Corporate Membership is to be only available to heads of research departments at textile machinery manufacturers, chemical manufacturers, fibre manufacturers, energy suppliers and water treatment plant manufacturers.

Membership for Experts/Professionals/Students

Individuals in the textiles value chain may apply for individual membership and depending on their interest and expertise, may join different committees. However, individual expert members may not be entitled to vote, although they will be able to communicate and provide their views and expert opinion on the subject matter. Importantly, they will be able to share their research work.



Executive Board

The Executive Board shall comprise the following (however, the BoG may choose to include additional members).

- i. Chairperson of BoG will be Chair of the Executive Board
- ii. Chairperson of Committee on Research and Development / Sectoral / Regional Networks / Interactive Forums
- iii. Chairperson of the Committee for Projects
- iv. Chairperson of the Technology Mission on Sustainability
- v. Chairperson of the Permanent Committee for Textiles at the Private Sector Advisory Committee
- vi. Chairperson of Permanent Committee for Retailers at the Private Sector Advisory Committee
- vii. Head of Textiles at the ICAC
- viii. Any other members as deemed necessary by the BoG

The Chairperson, in case of absence, may nominate any senior member of the committee to attend the meeting of the Executive Board. Members can nominate any senior member of their Committee to attend meetings of the Executive Board.

Selection / Election of Chair of ITRC

The ICAC may select the first Chair or the Executive Director ICAC being the President of ITRC may serve temporarily for a period of [12 months] to establish the ITRC and hold the first meeting of the Council to select the Chair of the ITRC.

Within [12] months, the Chair would seek nominations from member universities and research organisations for the selection of the Chair.

Members may select the Chair unanimously or may opt for elections. Every organisation on the BoG would have one vote. Members may opt to conduct the elections on the same day or the next meeting. Voting rights will only be available to universities and research organisations.

Chairpersons of the Executive Board and Committees Constituted by the Board of Governors

The Chair of the ITRC will be the Chair of the Executive Board.



For Committees, the Chair of the BoG or his nominee would chair the first meeting of the Committee and would request to volunteer or propose a nomination. The Members may choose a Chair unanimously.

In Committees, corporate members and compliance organisations would be allowed to vote. Every university, research institute, research organisation, corporate member and compliance organisation would have one vote.

If the Chair of ITRC or Chair of Committees Leaves the Parent Organisation

Should the Chair of Committees leave the parent organisation, the post will be vacant and a new chair will be selected.

Tenure of the Membership and Chair of the Committees and Chair of ITRC

The Chair of ITRC and Chair of Committees would have a tenure of three years which may be extended for another term of three years. Any Chair may have a maximum of [two] terms.

Meetings of the BoG, Executive Board, Regional and Sectoral Networks and Committees

A minimum of one meeting of Committees and one Meeting of the Executive Board and BoG would be held each year. However, the BoG from time to time may review the number of meetings to be held each year.

Members will be notified at least two weeks before a meeting is held.

An extraordinary meeting can be requested by Chair or 1/3 of the Members on short notice.

Approval of the Chair shall be required to call for a meeting. However, the Chair of ITRC and the President of ITRC may request a meeting.

Setting Agenda for the Meetings

The Chair of the Committees may develop the agenda by consulting with respective Members of the Committee and the ICAC.

Decisions of the BoG, Executive Board and Committees

It would be preferred that decisions are taken with mutual consent and are unanimous, however, if it is not the case then decision of the majority would prevail. The Committee may then refer the case to the Executive Board, and in the case of the Executive Board, the matter may be referred to the BoG, which is final. In case of split decision in the BoG, the decision of



majority will prevail. In case of a split decision, the quorum shall be 50% of the overall Members.

Quorum

A Quorum for all Committees shall consist of one-third of the Members.

Committees

The ITRC shall consist of the following Committees; however, the BoG may create and abolish any Committee or change the Terms of Reference (ToR) of any Committee. The Committees shall be chaired by a Chairperson, and if required then BoG may create a post for a Vice Chair. The ICAC Head of Textiles will be a Member of each Committee.

1) Sustainability Mission on Textiles (including traceability and labelling)

The overall objective shall be to provide a leadership in sustainability, traceability and labelling and make an attempt to devise unified guidelines for sustainability, traceability and labelling and create a sustainability index.

Mandate:

- a. The Committee will coordinate the work carried out by member organisations in the areas of Sustainability, Traceability and Labelling
- b. Review Member Countries' laws and regulations and devise a common set of rules acceptable to all Member countries
- c. In consultation with the PSAC, devise traceability methods and create a Sustainability Index
- d. Review the processes and process flows of machinery, energy and chemicals in consultation with machinery and chemical manufactures to potentially develop best practices and guidelines

2) Committee on Research and Development/Awards/Regional Networks/Interactive Forums

The objective of this Committee would be to coordinate research carried out by universities, research organisations and research department of corporate organisations and share it with the technologists and engineers.

Mandate:

- a. Share the research across the value chain and encourage the filing of patents



- b. Disseminate information among stakeholders, especially textile engineers and technologists
- c. Establish an Editorial Board to publish papers and encourage research reporting and writing
- d. Provide solutions to complicated matters of process flow and machinery design
- e. Provide leadership in reducing costs
- f. Create Regional (and where required, Sectoral) Networks and hold meetings on regular basis
- g. Develop an interactive online forum to encourage communication across the value chain
- h. Provide support to the ICAC for its annual Plenary Meeting by suggesting potential speakers from universities, research organisations and the research departments of corporate organisations
- i. Establish a Sub-committee on Awards that will be presented during the Plenary Meeting of the ICAC
- j. The Committee may consider reviewing testing methods
- k. The Committee may consider creating a special Sub-committee on Technical Textiles
- l. Review the sustainability of various fibres and provide guidelines
- m. Carry out an LCA of various fibres and processes
- n. Encourage and facilitate exchange programs for researchers and students

3) Committee on Projects

The objective of this Committee shall be to support Member governments to identify issues and prepare projects for consideration of governments and donors

Mandate:

- a. The focus will be to develop projects on:
 - i. Sustainability,
 - ii. Traceability,
 - iii. Labelling,
 - iv. Promote research and development,
 - v. Research based proposals,
 - vi. Trainings,
 - vii. Infrastructure,



- viii. Effluent water,
 - ix. Reduced energy requirements,
 - x. Process flows,
 - xi. New product development
- b. Develop projects on the recommendation of Member governments of the ICAC
 - c. Provide project support to ICAC Members
 - d. Identify various issues and develop projects for the consideration of donor agencies
 - e. Identify human resources and nominate Members for the development and execution of projects including evaluation once complete

4) Accounts

- a. Any fees or monies collected on behalf of the ITRC shall be accounted for in a separate account held by the ICAC. It shall be audited annually.
- b. The ICAC Accountant shall act as Treasurer.
- c. The ICAC shall nominate two persons to act as signatories on the account.
- d. The Treasurer will open separate accounts for each project
- e. The membership fee and its record will be maintained by the Treasurer.
- f. The ICAC may charge an allowance for the overall development of ITRC.

Membership Fee

There will be no membership fee for textile universities, research organisations and ICAC Member governments.

There will be an annual fee for textile universities, research organisations and Non-ICAC Member governments.

Corporations will be charged a fee to join the ITRC.

Experts, professionals and students will be charged an annual fee; however, their access will be limited and fee structure will be different for Member and non-Member countries. The fee will be determined on the recommendation of Executive Board and with the approval of the BoG and ICAC.

The Executive Board may review the annual fee from time to time.

The BoG and President have the power to exempt anyone from the fee for a limited period not to exceed three years.



The volunteers working for the ICAC and providing useful data, information and support can be exempted from the membership fee by the ICAC.

Suspension

Should an ICAC Member government become suspended due to non-payment of assessment fees, any associated university, research organisation or corporate member which is a Member of the ITRC will be granted observer status for a period of two years.

Should a suspended ICAC Member government be reinstated to the ICAC, any associated suspended members of the ITRC or of its constituted committees may apply to be reinstated.

If a Member government is involved in any contracted project or activity involving the ICAC at the time of its suspension, that project or work will continue until the end of the contractual agreement.

Any corporate member indebted to the ITRC/ICAC for any fees for a period of six months shall be suspended from membership until the debt is paid in full.

Resignation

Any member can resign at any time in writing by email or letter to the Chair of the BoG or the President.

In the case of resignation, a Member must fulfil its financial obligations before the resignation can be accepted.

A Member also cannot resign if they are a party to any ongoing contracts, agreements, projects or any similar work of the ITRC.

This does not take away the right of the Executive Board and the ICAC Secretariat to suspend the ITRC member in similar situations.

If any Member resigns, they will lose all rights and privileges of membership.

The Executive Board and/or the ICAC Secretariat may cancel the registration/membership of a member organisation and may refund at their discretion any registration fee paid (if applicable), proportionate to the unexpired period in the year of the cancellation.

Dissolution of the ITRC

The agreement of two thirds of members of the BoG is required to dissolve the ITRC. Any excess ITRC funds shall be credited to the ICAC.



Language

The principal language to be used in correspondence and in meetings will be English. However, consideration should also be given to providing interpretation services and document translation at meetings to ensure maximum participation from member organisations.

Amendments

These Articles may be amended by the Executive Board and confirmed by consensus by the BoG and President of the ITRC.
